

NATIONAL SECTION OFFICE
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June 28, 1978

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Argentina R

Jan Kalicki
Senator Edward Kennedy
431 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Dear Jan:

In response to your inquiry regarding the situation of human rights in Argentina, I contacted the researcher at our International Secretariat in London, and received the following response.

Amnesty International does not consider that there has been any improvement in the situation of human rights in Argentina. The following issues may clarify this statement.

1) As you well know, legislation severely curtailing civil liberties and human rights was introduced after the 1976 coup. Despite recent minor changes regarding censorship of the media, the repressive legislation remains essentially unchanged. Many people have been held without trial for four years, for example, Carlos Mariano Zamorano Vega. (For more details on his case see AI paper on repression against the legal profession). Although the option for exile has been reintroduced, hardly any of the prisoners have benefitted from it. AI knows of fewer than 25 cases.

2) No attempt has been made to locate missing persons. The answer recently given on 8 June by the Ministry of the Interior to a list of 2500 missing persons compiled by the Asamblea Permanente Por Los Derechos Humanos contained many errors and many of the people the Ministry claimed to have accounted for were not on the original list.

3) Official prisoners' lives are still at risk. There is no news about the following prisoners who disappeared after being released from La Plata Prison on 3 February 1978 (albeit at midnight which is contrary to the code set down by the International Committee of the Red Cross): Gonzalo Abel Carranza, Guillermo Segalli, Miguel Alejandro Dominguez and Gallardo (Christian name unknown). Furthermore, on 21 March 1978 at 22:00 hours Dr. Juan Carlos Deghi, a labor lawyer, was released from La Plata Prison and abducted with his wife who had been waiting for him a short distance from the prison entrance. His wife was abandoned in a nearby street, handcuffed and

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Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which works impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience, men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, color, ethnic origin, sex, religion or language, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. Amnesty International opposes torture and the death penalty in all cases without reservation and advocates fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners. Amnesty International is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests and religious creeds. It has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees). Amnesty International was the recipient of the 1977 Nobel Prize for Peace.

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hooded, and three days later was called to a police station to identify her husband's body and take it away for burial. She was given a death certificate which stated that the date of death was 21 March.

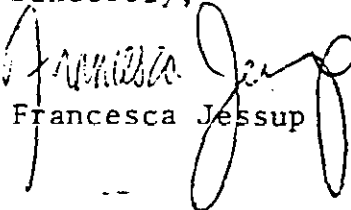
4) It would still appear to be more normal for a person to be abducted than to be officially arrested. Abductions continue to occur.

5) The lists of official prisoners issued by the Argentine Government this year are incomplete.

Regarding general statistics, those that are included in the enclosed leaflet printed this spring remain unchanged. In addition to the various background papers, I attach a list of those Urgent Appeals undertaken by Amnesty International over the last three months on disappearance cases. I also enclose a list of AI adopted prisoners adopted by US AI groups, and several cases of special concern.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,


Francesca Jessup